CANADIAN AGITATION.

Aims and Desires of the Society of Political Economy at Montreal.

INDEPENDENCE DEMANDED.

Reasons Why the Colony Should Act for Itself.

COMMENTS OF THE PRESS.

Statement of an Ex-Attorney General of Quebec.

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD. 1

MONTREAL, Dec. 30, 1879. Since my last letter I have been at Ottawa, where independence, if spoken at all, must be mentioned in whispers. But here, too, the Canada First ser timent is deeply rooted, and the sentiment of independence under that name finds many more supporters than ever before. To a New York HERALD orrespondent talking treason is ticklish business have not the courage to say so as they do in Mon-treal, where, by the way, I notice that they have formed what they call a Society of Political Economy. I have met several of those who are posted as to the oings of that society, and though nearly one hundred members were upon the roll, and among them Parliamentary representatives of the people and citizens of all denominations, the Montrea press, except briefly noticing the dinner, has little to say except giving the outline of the ob here say that had any public man, even a year ago, breathed a word of independence in sch at a public dinner he would have beer hustled out of public life. One young lawyer at the linner, who has been known all through his career for independence of sentiment, remarked that he was for "Canada first, for Canada second and for ada always, no matter whither the preference led

"How do you account for the absence of public opinion in the newspapers on this question?" I asked of one of the important persons who attended the

"I expect that they are all very much like our selves," was the answer. "They perhaps see more logic in the question than they care to ventilate. Perhaps, being in favor of it, they are waiting to see what will be done in the matter. You see what the Globe has said. There is no mistaking their meaning. They call it an annexation scheme and

"Yes; and that is the name it has had from those who have talked with me about it."

Oh, well, none of those present at the dinner went quite as far as that. They talked independent as straightly as men could talk it. Now, there were many questions discussed. For example, imperial federation, trade relations with Great Britain, Canada as a colony, independence, annexaand Canadian commerce. But, talk might, the whole tone of the dison and applause was certain to get back to Canadian independence. Any one could see by the applause that this was the question. Of course here were one or two present who seemed to favor annexation most strongly. But independence really was the premiere question, and I can tell you it was

"Well, what will come out of the meeting and the new society?"

"There is nothing to come of it except free discus sion of national questions, or questions that affect us as colonists. In fact, we are commencing to find out that we must discuss our future." "And the independence question-what of that?"

doubt. I am sorry you are not going to be with u s very great while. You might attend our next dinner and discussion. You could then see for yourself and write more intelligently upon what you saw."

"Well, I am somewhat surprised that I have met Canadians so passive over this business. When I

"Well, I am somewhat surprised that I have met Canadians so passive over this business. When I was in Canada during the Fenian troubles one would have faucied there was not a more loyal people on the Continent, and even a year ago I——"

"Well, so they are," broke in my informant sagerly, "They are loyal to Canada, and there must be no misapprehension on that score. You must not run away with the idea that we would fight a sainst Great Britain for our independence. We have no grievance strong enough for that. But what we claim is, that it would be better from any point of view the question is looked at that there should be Canadian independence. Take our own pase. The country has a long line of frontier to defend in case we had to help England in a quarrei with the United States. Does any reasonable man mean to tell me that we would have a chanco against your 40,000,000 of people? Why, if every man, woman and child were to be stood upon the frontier they would hardly cover it, let alone defend it. The Dominion government are talking of making new rified cannon and ammunition. What do we want with rifled guns or ammunition? We have no need at all for them. Our country grows more and more friendly to the American people every day, and we look forward to closer commercial relations with them. Politically we are a little afraid that they are too smart for us, and might gobble us up and leave very little of us. But we can got along very well as friends, and as an independent republic we might just do the very best thing we can to protect ourselves, and protection is the national policy at present. Now, look at the question from another standpoint. You know very well that your government paid Great Britain some \$5,500,000 for the benefit of fishing in American waters."

"Yes, I believe that if the Canadians always drive bargains as sharp as that they need not be afraid of American annexation."

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A LAUGH AT UNCLE-SAM.

"Yes, we had really the laugh upon our side that time. But wait a little. Do you know that there is at this very moment a very much strained point of diplomacy between France and England upon this very fishery question? The French government, when the deed of cession of Canada was accomplished, reserved her rights to fish in certain waters at Newfoundland, and every year a very large French population goes over to the fishing grounds to avail themselves of their national privileges. After the Crimean war, when the questions were settled as to European treaties, the fisheries matter at Newfoundland was also pronounced upon and was supposed to have been disposed of. But when the British government made the treaty with France, then the French Minister was instructed to tell the British Ministry that they must not forget that the French had fishery rights. The British Premier laughed at the suggestion as one to be passed over lightly. But the Island of Cyprus and press evinced considerable jealousy. They said, The English are taking everything. Then Mr. Waddington told Gladstone, "You have soid one fisheries rights. We want one share of the proceeds." And the English Premier is met with that difficult question just at a time when he least cares to be compelled to decide upon it. Now that is an additional reason why, from an imperial standpoint, it would be advisable for England to let us set up house for ourselves.

"Exculan REASONING."

additional reason why, from an imperial standpoint, it would be advisable for England to let us set up house for ourselves.

PECULIAR BRASSONING.

"Then the Irish in the United States are a very hostilic element in that country, and do their best to make embarrassment for England. How would it be with four or five millions of Canadians formed into an independent republic? They would act as a balance to the hostile element, and, joined along with the great mass of friendly people in the United States," could not help exerting an influence favorable to Great Britain. I believe that, at present we are a source of the greatest weakness to England. Three thousand miles away from her. Supposing she had a war with Russia and attacked us here. What could she do? I notice that some one—Senator Davis I think—discusses the prospect of Canada's defensive or offensive position, and in an interview with a reporter details the force we could bring against the British government. That is the talk of a soldier and one who does not understand our position. We could have no part with domonstrations hostile to the British government. There are onther means of doing these things, and if legislation and common sense cannot do it is will not be done at all. We do not want to rain our country, we want to build it up. What is it now? God knows it is almost parperism. If we want to sell anything to the United States we have to pay twonty-five or thirty cents to do it. Take corn and horses and overy article we trade in and the same is true. Our tarms have depreciated some fifty per cent, and on real estate in Montreal even it also has depreciated."

"What would independence de for you? I can see how annexation would help you, but I sm at a loss to see how the mere change from British to Canadian nationality would do it."

"We could make our own treaties, sell where we

pleased, and I know very well could have an ad-mission into American markets. Your Monroe doctrine would hardly give that to us now."

"Who comprises the bone and sinew of your

"Who comprises the bone and sinew of your organization?"
"Merchants, lawyers, politicians and tradesmen, who, having some stake in the country, dare to discuss questions affecting her interests."
"Is the movement a general one?"
"A question that I do not care to answer at present. We had 100 at the recent meeting. But, about that meeting, I must correct any misapprehension that it has anything directly to do with independence. It was a meeting merely for discussion. Early in January we will have another, and parhaps a larger number present, as I know that there are scores who are waiting to see how the thing gets on; and among these are gentlemen of position and influence." "Of what nationality were those who attended the

"All Canadians. By that I mean of French, English, Scottish and Irish parents."
The conversation which followed with my informant was of a confidential nature and merely corroborated what has been already said.

THE WITNESS ON "THE WHAT IS IT?"
Speaking of the recently formed Society of Political Economy, but which people affirm is an annextion or independence organization, the Wifness to-day calls it "The What is It?" and generally ridicules it.

tion or independence organization, the Witness to-day calls is "The What is It?" and generally ridicules it. The article then proceeds as follows:—

The club now includes eighty members, and its executive committee is composed of the following gentlemen:—Mayor Rivard, Hon. Senator Thibaudeau. Judge Loranger, Messrs. Desjardins, M. P., Hande, M. P., L. O. David, Beigne Trottier of the Banque du Peupie; W. H. Kerr, Q. C.; James Stewart, of the Herald; the Rev. A. J. Bray, D. MacMaster, M. P., W. Trenholme, M. C. Mullarky and G. W. Stephens. Messrs. Joseph Perrault and George Bury are the secretaries. The club will meet once a month, when a debate on some leading topic of interest to the country will take place, it being understood, however, that all members must speak according to their convictions—the discussions of the club, in this respect being different from those of an ordinary debating society. The ostensible objects of the club are set forth in the following memorandum received by our reporter from one of the secretaries.

The club now called the Political Economy Club is a social club zotten up for the purpose of discussing questions and in composed of gentlemen of all shades of politica, nationality and religion. It is the intonion te meet frequently and to have debates, essays, readings, &c., in which men of ability, whe have carefully studied all such questions, will take part.

Mr. Beique, one of the members of the committee, informed our reporter to-day that the first question discussed would doubtless be that of a commercial treaty between Canada and the United States, which will, in all probability, bring up for discussion the questions of independence, annexation and confederation with the British Empire. Members will be asked to prepare themselves for these discussions; and, by way of establishing and maintaining good feeling in the society, a dinner will be the first thing on the order of the day for each meeting. It is thought that the society as day for the period of the secretary of the peri

favor of independence or annexation must originate with commercial men, and must be of an essentially commercial character.

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC.

The Star has the following:—

"The object of this society is the same in principle as that of La Societé d'Economie de Politique, Paris, and it is intended to meet once a month at the Windsor Hotel to discuss questions of political economy and government. Eighty gentlemen have already joined, comprising merchants, bankers, &c., and gentlemen of all shades of opinion and nationalities, to discuss whatever affects the politics of the country. The order of the day will comprise the colonial system, the legislative union of Canada, commercial union with the United States, protection, free trade in princtple, independence, confederation of the empire, annexation with the States, the balance of trade, banking and other questions. The committee of the society will appoint gentlemen to discuss these questions, and every member will have the right to take part in the debate or to simply liston. The society hopes by these discussions to elevate the general knowledge of the public on these questions, which are of vital interest to Canada, and it is anticipated that there will be 4,000 members."

Neither of the morning newspapers have referred to the subject, although Western newspapers (the Witness says) have gone wild over it. The Post is not astonished to see members of the new society forecasting a future for Canada instead of straining their eyes 3,000 miles across the ocean. The society, its members and motives form the principal topic for discussion.

ATION IDEA, AND DECLARE CANADIANS ARE TOO LOYAL TO THINK OF IT. TORONTO, Ont., Dec. 30, 1879.

The assertion that an independent or annexation feeling exists in Canada is laughed at by all leading politicians. One of the local leaders, who does not wish his name mentioned, when addressed to-day on the subject ridiculed the idea and said the people were too content under the present state of to give a thought to such a matter, at least for the opinion of Mr. McMaster, M. P. P. for Glengarry, given in the New York HERALD and telegraphed to an evening paper here, he said:—"Yes; and if Mr. McMaster were to taining that interview circulated among his constitents he would not pell 300 votes, in spite of his personal popularity and all the influence he could bring to bear. Ten or fifteen years hence," he said, "things may have taken a turn and something arise which will bring the question of independence to the surface; but annexation! Never! Why, ninety-nine men out of every hundred in Ontario would revolt against such an idea—yes, and would fight, too. Professor Goldwin Smith and a few men like him, who are always discontented with the existing state of things and would agitate any change, no matter what, may favor independence or annexation, but beyond their narrow limits the feeling has no hold and will have none for a long time to come. Undoubtedly there are men who would look kindly upon some change in our state in one of the two directions mentioned, but they are mainly to be found in Quebec; and I really think if an agitation of the Confederation. There are too many with British blood in their veins in this province for it to agree to annexation.

"We have no grievances such as the Americans

or the Confederation. There are too many with British blood in their voins in this province for it to agree to annexation.

"We have no grievances such as the Americans had when they fought for liberty. We govern ourselves and are free to do as we please. Britain controls us with a silkon rein, and as long as she allows us to go our own way we will be content to remain not altogether a dependency, but, as we are in reality, her ally."

Politicians and leading men spoke in the same strain; but most of the gentlemen addressed said they had given no consideration to the matter, and the subject, they thought, was so far from engaging public attention that they did not intend to. Several remarked that it was sheer impudence for a New York paper to meddle in our affairs to the extent the likualo is trying to do. "It will do us harm in England," one gentleman said, "and may pernaps hurt our credit. It would for obvious reasons be the worst possible thing for us were a movement for independence or annexation to obtain any growth in Canada just now."

DISADVANTAGES TO THE DOMINION FROM CONNECTION WITH GREAT BRITAIN-FUELING OF THE PEOPLE REGARDING ANNEXATION TO THE UNITED STATES-REPUBLICAN TENDEN-

CIES AND TRADE PROGRESSION. The views expressed in yesterday's HERALD by member of the Canadian Parliament were received by merchants in this city as establishing beyond all doubt the fact that the independence of Canada is were interviewed on the subject, and all expressed their indorsement of Mr. Donald Macmister's views as to the sentiments of the Canadian public. Hon. David A. Ross, ex-Attorney General of the Province of Quebec, who is at present staying at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, was interviewed by a HERALD reporter on the subject. Mr. Ross is one of the most able and best informed statesmen in the Dominion, and occupies a high position in the liberal party, being one of the officers whom Mr. Letellier appointed in forming his new government. He said:—"There is very little feeling in favor of independent government or annexation among the people of the city of Quebec. It is in Montreal and Toronto that this sentiment is taking root. There never was so much discussion of the subject. No particular scheme has been accepted; but the people are beginning to realize that some change is necessary. No feeling of disloyalty to Great Britain exists. Canada is assuming the dimensions of a nation, and has need of every advantage that other nations possess in commercial interchange. The Dominion is in a state of transition, and nobody denies that a crisis is at hand; but what will be the result it is impossible to say. The first step taken in the new direction is the passage of the Tariff act by the Dominion Parliament. The next step necessary, I think, is the abolition of provincial parliaments and the establishment of a strong federal or central government. The provincial par, liaments are a great disadvantage at present. They cannot regulate any questions of vital commercial interest, such as railroad matters, which are legis-

sum annually to support their sessions, which are of no practical benefit. In fact, their government. This will probably be made the prin

actions only serve to handicap and embarrass the real government. This will probably be made the principal issue during the next session of Parliament. My views on this subject I am sure are concurred in by the majority of Canadians who are at all acquainted with the evils of the present system. The question of annexation is always coupled with this improvement, aithough I do not see why."

STARLATION FROM ENGLAND.

"What are your views regarding the separation of Canada from England?"

"The condition of Canada as a part of the British Empire is a very peculiar one. England has made treaties with all the foreign nations which give her merchants a great advantage in securing a trade in their respective lines of manufacture or product. But in every treaty so made Canadia is left out in the cold, as much as though she never existed. The result is that Canadian commercial men are not recognized at all in foreign marts. We are mere colonists who have no commercial rights which any toreign Power is bound to respect. Although dependent on England we do not share her rights. There is certainly a mistake made in this policy. Either England must contract treaties for the Dominion or the Canadians will assume the right of making their own treaties. England guarantees to protect us, but we have no treaties to violate. Consequently protection under the existing state of affairs is useless. One of my most intimate friends, Mr. James Ross, the Quebec millionnaire, lately received a contract for a million shoes for the French army. Mr. Ross had all the necessary facilities in the shape of factories, with improved machinery, and actually began to execute the contract. The lack of any reciprocal treaty between France and Canada has compelied him to abandon it altogether. This is only one instance of the commercial disadvantage under which Canada is placed at present. Great Britain treats Canada just as she does all her other dominions which are mercly agricultural territories. The difficulty is that Canada is a great manufacturi

against unjust and unnecessary measure. Analyzans have more legal rights in London than Canadians."

"Do you favor annexation to the United States?"

"Not at the present stage of affairs. It has always been my impression, though, that if the South had succeeded in the late rebellion Canada would have joined herself to the North and divided herself up into several States. I think there should be a commercial union established between us and this country. The customs services should be abolished without any ceremony or hesitation. Then, after the imaginary line between Canada and the United States had been wiped out, you know what would follow. There is much more sympathy between Canadians and Americans than it is politic for the former to confess just now."

"How is British Columbia regarded by Canadians proper?"

former to contess just now."

"How is British Columbia is an obstruction to the aims of Canadian commerce. But as soon as the Canada Pacific Railroad is finished the interests of the two sections will be united again. General Howson, of Quebec, is proposing a scheme which it is likely that the government will adopt. He proposes to run a railway to the Pacific coast from Quebec. The route, starting at Quebec, will lead past Hudson's Bay, along the valley which lies at Norway House and the Peace River at Queen Charlotte's Island on the Pacific coast. General Hewson also proposes to export the grain and other products of Northwestern Canada to London by a much shorter route than that taken at present. The produce of the Northwest will be conveyed by raifroad to the most southern extremity of 'Hudson's Bay. There it will be put on board of steamers and taken direct to England, from whence it can be distributed to the various European markets. In order to carry out such enterprises as this the necessity of foreign representation for Canada sall the more apparent. Now, if we make a treaty with the United States abolishing all taxes between us the English will have to pay just as much duty on their exports to Canada as to the United States. This is practically a union against British commerce, which would call forth some demonstration on the part of the mother country. I feel certain that the British government would never consent to give us a Ministerial or Parliamentary representation in England. But if we wished to separate I do not think it would entail a war upon us. If the English public and government would never consent to give us a Ministerial or Parliamentary representation in England. But if we wished to separate I do not think it would entail a war upon us. If the English public and government would never consent to give us a Ministerial or Parliamentary representation in England. We have a few men who have thour able or sir prefixed to their names as titles, but these are simply marks of political distinc

ment have decided to never create a Canadian baronet. The reason is that a baronetey represents estates and is a title of considerable substantial value. This decision must have been arrived at after a careful study of the Canadian heart. Such an institution as hereditary lands would be distasteful to them. There is no aristocracy in the Dominion. The Marquis of Lorne could never form a cours from Canadians. No, the only future which Canada can look forward to as an independent power is a republic. The whole system of government is similar to the American. If we were annexed to the United States to morrow the liberals would become a part of the republican party, and the conservatives a part of the democratic party. The various provinces would become States. Each provincial Parliament would answer as the State Legislature, the general governmental Senate being represented by the Dominion Parliament. It has been urged that Canada could not exist as a republic on account of the race prejudices and religious animosities of her people. This is an utter error. There is no more bigory among the Roman Catholics of Canada than smong Americans. I was elected Attorney General by a large majority over my Roman Catholic opponent, and my supporters were almost altogether Catholics."

"What is the present political feeling in the Dominion?"

"One of suspense. The British government are experimenting with the Dominion. All are waiting to see the effect of the imperial element which has been introduced into the administration."

The rest of the interview was mainly devoted to a discussion of the state of trade in the Dominion, which Mr. Ross declared to be excellent. He did not wish to be understood as declaring that absolute separation from Great Britian was an immediate necessity, but viewed it as one of the questions which are confronting the Canadian public. He stated that the increased education of the American farmer over that of the Canadian provincial was due to the general perusal of newspapers in the United States.

RECIPROCITY, NOT ANNEXATION, DESIRED BY CANADIANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:-I am an old Canadian, residing in this city, and have a large circle of friends and family connections in Canada, with whom I correspond and visit oc-casionally; hence I naturally read with interest the articles published in the HERALD on Canadian affairs and sentiment. I can indorse fully what Sir Francis Hincks said to your reporter yesterday about the present state of feeling among Canadians on the subject of annexation. The sentiment in favor of such a step is almost entirely confined to Montreal, though there are some prominent business men in Toronto and Hamilton who, I learn on the best authority, are in favor of it, but no leading man in Parliament would dare to raise the discussion. There each party secuses the other of being secretly in favor of it, while both make loud professions of loyalty to England. It has been charged against the Macdonald Ministry that they or some of them have said, "Canadia first" and "England second," and this has been construed by the Toronto Gobe into treason. I believe lam better advised in respect to the general public sentiment of the Province of Ontario than Sir F. Hincks, as I have for over a year devoted myself to secertaining the feeling of Canadians in respect to a measure of reciprocity of trade between the two countries, and have received numerous letters from various leading men of both parties, and one and all go for a liberal measure. By this I mean a measure that will lead promptly to a considerable reduction of the tariff charges on all articles the production and manufacture of the two countries. Reciprocity inkely to be ceded by this country. The Macdonafd Ministry declined to accept such a measure because they say it would studitly them as the avowed advocates of protection. But I have private letters from protectionists engaged in manufacture who say they have no market for their products, and want the measure before Mr. Wood's Committee as a means for opening the markets of the Western States to their goods.

The bulk of those I have conferred with in Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton and several smaller towns any if Congress would pass the bill introduced last season by Mr. S. S. Cox, and referred to the Ways and Means Committee, no government could stand in Canadia that refused to meet it promptly by an act of the same tenor and effect. If the merchants of Ne Hincks said to your reporter yesterday about the present state of feeling among Canadians on the

FUNERAL OF RECORDER HACKETT.

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS PAY THE LAST HONORS TO THEIR LATE ASSOCIATE-SIMPLE SERVICES

IN TRINITY CHAPEL The funeral of the late Recorder John K. Hackett took place yesterday morning at ten o'clock from Trinity Chapel. The services were characterized b simplicity, and, as requested, no flowers were sent. The chapel was well filled, and besides the relatives of the deceased there were present many prominent gentlemen who had been on terms of intimacy with the Recorder. The ceremony was according to Episcopal formulas. The Rev. C. T. Olmstead read the lesson and the choir sang the hymn "Leackindly light amid the encircling gloom." Then the

the lesson and the choir sang the hymn "Lead kindly light amid the encircling gloom." Then the Rev. Dr. C. E. Swope read the prayers, followed by a chant by the choir. The coffin, borne through the sisle by four undertaker's attendants, there being no palibearers, was a black wainut casket, covered with black cloth, with silver trimmings. On the coffin plate was the legend:—

JOHN R. HACKETT,

aged 69 years.

The coffin, on which palm leaves were laid, was not opened. The remains were interred at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Among those present at the chapel were August Belmont, Commodore Garrison, Judge Gildersleeve, John Hoey, Corporation Counsel Whitney, ex-Police Commissioner Nichols, Senator Wagstaff, ex-Judge Samuel Jones, District Attorney Phelps and Assistant District Attorney Rollins, Russell, Herring, Bell and Lyon; Judge Quinn, ex-Assemblyman Floyd Jones, ex-Mayor Vance, Commissioner Thomas Dunlap, Judge Cowing, Justice Bixby, ex-Alderman McCafferty, Judge John R. Brady, Police Commissioner MacLean, Judge Fowler, ex-District Attorney McKeon, Fire Marshal Sheldon, Judge Sutherland, Horace Waldo, Judge Rapallo, Captain McCloskie, ex-Police Commissioner Thomas C. Acton, City Chamberlain Nelson Tappan, Judge Barber, John B. Haskin, John E. Devlin, General Charles Graham, Joseph Folk, Degrasse Livingston, ex-Police Commissioner of Public Works Van Nort, Hugh Hastings, Park Commissioner Smith E. Lane, August L. Brown, Mayor Cooper, William B. Dinsmore, Douglas Taylor, General Sossions Sparks, ex-Commissioner of Police Relso, Chief Justice Noah Davis, George J. Forrest and Benjamin L. Swan.

The Board of Alderman met, but adjourned without having transacted any business on receipt of a communication from the Mayor announcing Mr. Hackett's death.

WHO SHALL SUCCEED HIM?-REPUBLICANS DE-TERMINED THAT ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTOR-NET BOLLINS SHALL BE. THE MAN-DEM-OCRATS FOR EX-JUDGE BEDFORD.

The contest for the position held by the late Re-corder Hackett was an engrossing tople of conversa-tion in political circles yesterday and last night. The republicans held two private sessions and it was decided on the part of the republican City Fathers to vote as a unit for Assistant District Attorney Dan iel G. Rollins, and on no account to support a democrat for the place, at least not at to-day's session of the Board. The Tammany Aldermen agreed early in the day to present the name of either ex-Judge Bedford, Charles W. Brooks or Frederick Smyth, and it was thought probable, that at least one of these gentlemen could secure confirmation at the hands of a majority of the members of the Board. Ex-Judge Bedford, it was thought, could secure a number of anti-Tammany votes, and provided the Tammany City Fathers stood by him, was sure of being chosen. The Tammany men, however, have not yet decided positively as to whom they will support, but it is said that on no account will they vote for Mr. Rollins. The republicans claim the place for one of their men, because, they say, Mr. Hackett was sleeted by the aid of republicans claim the place for one of their men, because, they say, Mr. Hackett was sleeted by the aid of republicans claim the place for one of their men, because, they say, Mr. Hackett was sleeted by the aid of republicans can have upon the office, even though they helped to secure the election of the late incumbent. In consequence of this they have thus far refused, and, if they are to be believed, will continue to refuse to cast their votes for any man who is not a well known and popular democrat. It is conceded by everybody that such a gentleman can be found in the person of ex-Judge Bedford. Whether Tammany will support him, however, is yet to be determined. The Board of Aldermen will meet to-day at eleven A. M., and before that hour both the republicans and Tammany City Fathers will hold caucuss, when the final determination as to the candidates to be supported will be reached. In case a democrat should be elected without the aid of the republicans, then it is said to be the intention of the Legislature to pass slaw allowing the Governor to make the appointment, thus legislating the incumbent out of office, Rollins being defeated through the sid of democratic votes. The anti-Tammany City Fathers seem iel G. Rollins, and on no account to support a dem

should insist on Mr. Rollins, then it is among the possibilities that the next Board of Aldermon will have the choosing of Mr. Hackett's successor, unless, indeed, the Legislature should, in the first days of the session, vest the power of appointment in the hands of Governor Cornell.

"ANYTHING WE WANT."

It is generally believed that the republicans are determined to prevent any successor to Mr. Hackett being appointed until after the assembling of the Legislature. A prominent republican, in conversation with a Heraldo reporter last night, thus delivered himself on this topic:—

"The democrate can just make up their minds that they are not going to obtain the Recordership. Dan.' Rollins has set his heart upon the office, and he will get it in some way, if not at the hands of the Aldermen, through the grace of a republican Legislature and a republican Governor. It is possible that a democrat like Judge Bedford might beat Mr. Rollins in the present Board, but the Legislature can make everything all right. Whatever is done now will be only temporary anyhow. The successor to Mr. Hackett will only have a year to serve, and therefore we republicans don't mean to worry ourselves about the matter one way or the other. If we should be beaten in the Common Council we can ge to Albany and obtain anything we want."

EX-COMMISSIONER NICHOLS.

RETURN TO THE WRIT OF CERTIORARI DI-RECTED BY THE SUPREME COURT, GENERAL

Court, General Term, in the matter of the writ of certiorari obtained in the case of ex-Police Commis-sioner Nichols to review the action of Mayor Cooper in his removal. The opinion of the Court, which

in his removal. The opinion of the Court, which is given per curiam, and sustains fully all the points raised by Messre. Townsend and Weed, counsel for Mr. Nichols, is as follows:—

We are of the opinion that a writ of certiferart may properly be such out to review the action of the Mayor in cases of this character. The allowant of the county of the character of the court to wich a writ cast in the wound discretion of the Court to wich a writing the county of the case, which we think is not properly before us for that out considering ori namy way passing upon the merits of the case, which we think is not properly before us for that purpose, we dispose of the case upon the ground simply that a writ of certiferar would lie in such a case as this, and that the action of the Court is granting the same was not an abuse of its discretion. In respect to the order directing the return to be made, it is sufficient to say that a return was made and filed, and by the writ of problibilion herefore granted in the case the trial of the merits of the proceeding was sent to the proper tribunal. It became quite important to determine whether or not the judge should, under the circumstances, have directed a return to be made, and we think that a disposition of the case is made by dismissing the appeal from the order. The motion to dismiss the appeal from the order. The motion to dismiss the appeal from the order allowing the writ should be denied and the order should be affirmed.

Pursuant to the above decision the case will be tried on its merits at the next session of the Supreme Court, Special Torm. Meantime the argument on the appeal from the writ of prohibition is set down for argument in the Court of Appeals on the 13th of next month.

JERSEY CITY'S BROKEN BANK.

At the opening of the Hudson County (N. J.) Court of General Sessions yesterday ex-Judge Hoffman began the closing argument for the prosecution in the trial of the indicted officers and directors of the Mechanics and Laborers' Savings Bank, charged dent John Halliard, Secretary James W. Donelan, and Messrs. Jeremiah Sweeney, Patrick Sheeran, Adam J. Distmar and Thomas C. O'Callaghan—were present and occupied seats near their respective counsel. In his opening counsel for the State recited the charges in the indictment, and then read the charter of the broken bank. He claimed that the evidence presented by the State had abundantly sustained the indictment, and that if the defendants, in conducting their business as they had intended to, act only as honest men, their methods made them fools in the eyes of the community. He depicted the scene of the poor women who had appeared in court day after day with their bahes, crying because they could not teil where food or fuel was to come from for the winter, and again he mentioned the remark of Dr. O'Callaghan, that the directors would fight the depositors with their own money and that no jury could be found to convict them. "But, Dr. O'Callaghan," he said, addressing one of the defendants, "look to the jury before you." At the conclusion of Mr. Hoffman's address the court adjourned until to-day, when Judge Garrettson will deliver his charge to the jury. dent John Halliard, Secretary James W. Donelas

A WORD ABOUT TO-MORROW.

THE TIME FOR MAKING NEW YEAR'S RESOLU-TIONS-BEEF TEA AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR

account be reopened to-morrow on page 1880. The HERALD has discussed nearly everything that pertains to the proper observance of New Year's Day except the important matter of new resolutions Somehow that day has been selected by frail human ity as the fittest time for introducing all kinds of re-forms, mending habits that are sadly out of repair It will not do to say that every day begins a new year, even though you may be able to prove it. Men and women are so in the habit of dating their lives from the let of January that they would invest from the lat of January that they would scorn a proposition to "hereby resolve" upon any important change in the month of December. In fact December, by its very nearness to the beginning of another year, is the most demoralizing month in the calendar. Christmas redeems it partly with its tide of generosity, and gives mankind a week to reflect what dear, delightful creatures they can be when they try. So it comes about that the first a good time for a fresh start. It is well enough to

be when they try. So it comes about that the first day of the first month of each now year is esteemed a good time for a frosh start. It is well enough to accept the theory now since we have one foot already upon the threshold of anothes twelvemonth. Resolutions are in order, and Father Time has the chair. He has the faculty of hearing everybody at once, so it will not be necessary to call the roll. If Mr. "Z" has anything to repent of he may take the floor while "A" is speaking, and all good resolutions will be considered not debatable.

Wicked and imperfect people ought to remember that this is the last day of the session for the introduction of new bills. There will be no time for reflection to-morrow, since everybody them must call upon everybody else, and New Year's dinners will complete the oblivion that New Year's dinners will complete the oblivion that New Year's sideboards begun. If every man, woman and child were to spend two hours of to-day in serious reflection, and the proceedings in each particular brain could be reported like the proceedings of Congress, what interesting reading it would make! People, however, are inclined to pursue their reflections in private, and, after all, it seems to be the better way, for the second day of the month would be sure to exhibit some of thereformers in a sorry plight. People dislike, above all things, to make themselves ridiculous in the eyes of others. They never can be made so in their own. There is a class who despise, or affect to despise, New Year's resolutions because of their subsequent failure. They nave done the thing so ofton on their own account that they have foresworn the practice and laugh at those who continue it. If the truth were known very few people go from December into January without some shade of moral transformation. The effects of example and the effects of human nature are both too great for the most confirmed cynics. The chances are in tavor of their pockets. Even that is an important thing in its way, yet it would be much more to the

WATCHING THE OLD YEAR OUT.

The closing year again brings the Mothodist Watch Night into view. Its history and design have been so often given that they need not be repeated. It is, however, no longer exclusively a Methodist institution; other denominations have in late ; ears adopted the custom of ending the departing year and greeting the incoming one with religious exercises. Hence in the Congregational Church of the Disciples this evening the watch of the year will be observed by special services, at which the Rev. Drs. Beyan, of formed Episcopal Church, and other neighboring ministers will unite with the Rev. W. R. Davis in making the services interesting and instructive. making the services interesting and instructive. The choir will sing music especially arranged for the occasion and including the old "Covenant Hymn" of the Wesicyans and Methodists of a centry ago. The services will begin at half-past nine P. M. and continue until midnight. The Protestant Episcopal Church of St. Ann, on the Heights. Brooklyn, will also hold a Watch Night service for half an hour preceding midnight, at which Dr. Schenck will officiate. Services will be held also in thus city in the following Methodist Episcopal churches:—Washington Square, Central, Asbury, Bedford Street, St. Paul's, St. James' Harlem, Forty-third Street, Fitty-third Street, Eighteenth Street and Thirticht Street, also in Willett Street and Forsyth Street. In Brooklyn the Tabernacle Baptist Church will hold a prayer service at half-past nine o'clock en New Year's morning, instead of on the night before. Greene Avenue and Nostrand Avenue churches will unite in a watch service in the house of the latter, at which Dr. Kettell, pastor of the former church, will preach. Sanda Street and Washington Street churches will also unite in the house of the latter, and the two pastors, Revs. L. Parker and D. O. Ferris will deliver addresses. Summerfield and Simpson churches will hold separate services, and Drs. Sims and Chadwick will preach. The latter church will utilize the evening also by its annual pow renting. At York Street Methodist Episcopal Church Messrs. Mead and Lynn, lay Evangelists, will be present and assist in the services, which begin there at nine o'clock. At the same hour Miss Oliver's church, in Willoughby avenue, will carry on a watch meeting, but in nearly all the other churches the service begin at half-past eight P. M., and the Rev. C. M. Giffin, of Baltimore, a former pastor, is expected to be present and preach in First Place Church and Johnson Street Church, however, services begin at half-past eight P. M., and the Rev. C. M. Giffin, of Baltimore, and former pastor, is expected to be present and preach in First Plac The choir will sing music especially arranged for

Mr. Albert Meialahn, Jr., will play the following on Trinity Church chimes, commencing at half-past

leven P. M.:—

1. Ringing the changes on eight bells,
2. Evening Bells.
3. Air by de Beriot,
4. Blue Bells of Scotland,
5. Old Dog Tray,
6. Little Maggie May,
7. Child of the Regiment,
8. Old Folks At Home,
9. Happy Now Year to Thee,
10. Scotch melody (from "Guy Mannering.")
11. Lottle Lee,
12. The Harp That Once Through Tara's Halls,
13. Yankee Doodle,
14. Home, Sweet Home,

FOR THE PROTECTION OF LIFE.

The following resolution, submitted by Mr.

The following resolution, submitted by Mr. Voorhis, was adopted at yesterday's meeting of the Police Commissioners:—
Resolved, That the Board of Police hereby gives notice that it will entertain applications in writing from private ettisens or public officials having control of buildings or places where large numbers of adults or children are employed, or are in the habit of assembling, to connect the station house in the police procinct wherein the same may be situated, for the purpose of calling for immediate police aid in case of personal danger arising from panic or fright caused by an aiarm of five or from any other cause in said building or places; the connection by telegraph to be made, maintained and its operations conducted inder the direction and supervision of the Superintenent of Telegraph of the Police Department, and at the expense of the parties making the same, and to continue during the places are of the Beard of Felice.

THE SOCIAL EVENT OF THE SEASON.

THE GRAND MASK BALL AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC -- A BRILLIANT ARRAY OF PATRONS AND A PASHIONABLE THRONG TO BE PRES-

.The fashionable circles of New York are at present tirred from centre to circumference by the interest that has been aroused in the forthcoming grand mask ball that will take place at the Academy of Music on the night of the 5th of January. A similar event—that is to say, one under the auspices of the most distinguished leaders of metropolitan society has not occurred certainly within the memory of the present generation. The Prince of Wales' ball visited America in 1860 and the charity salico balls that have since been given were marvels of beauty, both as regards the descritions of the Amdomy and the brilliant character of the assemblages, but a ball wherein our citie may gayly disport themselves under the protection of a mask and be arrayed in whatever rich and fanciful costumes may be chosen, will be a feature of social lif that promises to be novel and attractive.

question what to wear for a disguise, and the tast of the most artistic milliners of the city has bee invoked to make the ladies who propose to be present look as picturesque, mysterious and charmin

as possible.

Nearly all of the boxes have been secured, and the demand for admissions to the floor is unprecedented. The prices of the boxes range, according to location, from \$25 to \$100. and the price of admission is \$10 for each gentleman and \$5 for each lady. The following list of names will afford a general idea of the personnel of the gentlemen who will be present with their families, and who have already engaged boxes. The list is necessarily incomplete:—

1. J. Astor.

1. J. R. Lyvin, Jr. and who have already eiccessarily incomplete:—
R. Irvin, Jr..
Columbus Iselin,
Oliver Iselin,
L. W. Jerome,
E. R. Jones,
H. E. Jones,
Colonel Delancy Kane,
S. Nicholson Kane,
James P. Kernochan,
O. K. King,
Francis C. Lawrence,
Pierre Lorillard,
J. A. Lowery,
Herman K. Le Roy,
J. F. Loubat,
Maturin Livingston,
L. P. Morton,
T. B. Musgrave,
J. Pierpont Morgan,
L. H. Mahoney,
Charles H. Marshall,

William Astor, W. W. Astor, Commodore Baldwin, C. C. Baldwin, S. L. M. Barlow, James A. Bayard, Jr., N. M. Beckwith, Isaac Bell, August Eelmont. William Dorsh W. P. Douglas, Henry Draper,
John H. Draper,
John H. Draper,
Dr. Bache Emmet,
Herman Emmet,
Le Roy Edgar,
H. S. Fearing,
C. G. Francklyn,
Cornelius Fellowes,

C. E. Strong,
Frederic Stevens,
Lispenard Stewart,
Heary Stevens,
William Turnbull,
W. R. Travers,
Isaac Townsend,
W. H. Vanderbilt,
W. K. Vanderbilt,
Ames Van Wart,
L. Von Hoffman,
D. T. Worden,
Buchanan Winthroy
J. A. Wadsworth,
Bache Whitlock,
Sidney Webater,
George H. Warren,

I. H. Mahoney, Charles H. Marshall, Peter Marié, A. C. Monson, Thomas Newbold, Herman Oelrichs,

Beverly Robinson, Marshall O. Roberts,

F. R. Rives, C. A. Seward, Augustus Scherm Philip Schuyler, E. T. Snelling, C. E. Strong, Frederic Stevens.

G. G. Howland,
S. S. Howland,
George H. Warren,
Gerald Hoyt,
The utmost care is being taken to prevent the
presence of disreputable persons, and to this end
applications for seats are only responded to at the
office of the secretary in the Academy.

As may be expected from the well known character of the gentlemen who have the management of
this brilliant enterprise, no expense will be spared
to make it a success worthy of themselves and one
memorable in the annals of the fashionable world.
The interior of the building will be like a great
flower garden—the galleries, corridors, private
boxes all being festooned and adorned in the most
beautiful manner that can be devised by the most
accomplished of our foral artfats. The designs submitted to these gentlemen are of an
elaborate character. The appreaches to the floor
will be like broad avenues lined with foliage, with
beautiful vines and plants wreathing the doorways,
lining the stairways and depending from the gas
fixtures. The parquet will be floored over in the
usual way and likewise partake of the general style
of decoration. A handsome scene is now being
painted by Mr. Mapleson's scenic artist which represents a mounlight view, that will be rendered the
more effective by the introduction of electric lights,
rustic seats and their accessories of the intended
spectacle. In short, nothing will be left undone to
invest the event with the utmost magnificence. Two
large orchestras, comprising 150 artists, have been
engaged to supply the music, and the several committees are now busily occupied in perfecting the
details of the affair.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

THE COMMISSIONERS CLOSING THE YEAR-COM-PLIMENTARY RESOLUTIONS AND PRESIDENT WOOD'S FAREWELL-THE CONVICTED SCHOOL PRINCIPAL.

At yesterday's meeting of the Board of Educ held for the purpose of closing up the year's busi-ness, resolutions were passed complimenting the outgoing Commissioners, the veteran clerks of the Board, and especially President William Wood. LL. D., who, in response, made an address. He especially described his connection with the Normal College and the College of the City of New York, the

college and the College of the City of New York, the various reforms he had been instrumental in introducing into them or which he had advocated. He next spoke of the probable future of these two colleges and gave statistics as to their progress during his connection with them, as well as the truant system. The address of the President was lowelly applanded, and after other compliments the Board proceeded to the consideration of the usual business.

THE CARE OF PRINCIPAL MOOIE.

Commissioner Wetmore, from the special committee appointed to investigate the matter of the conviction in the Court of Special Sessions of Principal Moore, of Grammar School No. 61, of assaulting one Munschaw, a liquor dealer in Harlem, reported the facts as testified to before them, and, while censuring him, asked to be discharged. Commissioner Traud immediately presented a potition from residents of the Twenty-third ward complimenting Mr. Moors's efficiency. The report was signed by Messra, Wetmore, Donnelly and Manierre, Commissioner Watson took the floor at once and denounced the habits of the Principal, which he said were a scandal to the Board of Education. Mr. Watson said that once before this man had been "whitewashed" and he wanted to know what the public would think of this second attempt at "whitewashing," Commissioner Dunelly explained that the committee had but one matter before them—the investigation of the charge of assault—and they could not go into the private habits of the man. The committee's report was adopted by a vote of 15 to 4, and when the vote had been declared, Chairman Wetmore arose and stated that while investigating the charge of assault they had reports from reputable gentlemen as to the habits of Mr., Moore. He therefore moved that the City Supering tendent be instructed to investigate the alleged in regularities of the principal and report. This motion was unanimously adopted. The Board soon after adjourned.

THE NEW BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

An agreement has been reached between Tammany and the republicans to vote for Alderman John J. Morris for president of the Board of Aldermen. Even in case the Tammany City Fathers refused to vote for a republican chairman it is said that the vote for a republican chairman it is said that the anti-Tammany Aldermen would only be too glad to support Mr. Morris. The position is of considerable importance, in view of the fact that the presiding officer or the Common Council becomes acting Mayor in case of the death, suspension or removal of the chief magistrate of the city. The president of the Board, by virtue of his office, becomes a member of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, and, as a member of that bedy, would, in case the combination between Tammany and the republicans is continued, be a great help to the Comptroller, giving him in fact absolute control of the Board, and leaving Mayor Cooper in a minority. Then, too, in making up the standing and special committees of the new Board great power can be wielded by the president. He can, for instance, make any member of the Board a Commissioner of the Sinking Fund by making him chairman of the Finance Coursiderably.

THE HOSPITAL FUND. An agreement has been reached-between Tammany

THE HOSPITAL FUND.

Treasurer Lanier, of the Hospital Pund, states that the subscriptions reported to him up to five P. M. yesterday were \$7,040 16. The contents of all the boxes, however, are not yet counted. Clerks were at work counting the contributions placed in the "." railroad boxes, and of a dozen placed as different points. The smallest amount contained therein was five cents and the largest \$30. The total sum subscribed by the members of the Froduct Exchange was \$74.